



Winter in Wonderland Package Itinerary & Details Winter 2018-19

The **Winter in Wonderland** Lodging & Learning Package is designed for those who want to explore the heart of Yellowstone's winter wilderness with an expert naturalist guide, both on skis and snowshoes. The serenity and beauty of Yellowstone in winter is truly one-of-a-kind, and this will provide the setting for discovery, reflection, and fascination. We will incorporate wildlife, history, ecology, and geology into daily activities, as well as discuss issues that affect the Yellowstone ecosystem. Your Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide will lead you through the most scenic and awe-inspiring features in the park, and share the stories behind the rare magic of Yellowstone.

This package begins at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, where you will board a chartered snowcoach for a scenic trip to the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. We'll explore points of interest along the way, such as Roaring Mountain and Madison Junction, and stop to enjoy wildlife sightings. Then we'll settle in to Old Faithful Snow Lodge, your warm and cozy base for the next three full days of outings and activities. We'll venture out into the nearby geyser basins, forests, and riparian habitats on skis and snowshoes, while taking in the fascinating sights and sounds of the surrounding thermal features. Your naturalist guide will interpret wildlife tracks and sign found in the snow, and the science behind the survival of these hardy species. Chartered snowcoach trips are built in throughout to allow further exploration and ski trips along the Firehole River and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The final day we'll return to Mammoth Hot Springs hotel via snowcoach and reflect on the experience while taking in the sights along the way.

Program Highlights

- All-inclusive package includes meals, lodging, transportation, and instruction by a Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide
- A full day exploring the thermal features, forests, and riparian habitat in the Old Faithful Upper Geyser Basin on foot and snowshoe
- Professional cross-country ski instruction
- Skiing and exploring geyser basins and wildlife habitat beyond Old Faithful via chartered snowcoach
- A full day chartered snowcoach trip to enjoy sightseeing and skiing along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone Lake, Hayden Valley and Yellowstone River
- Snowshoeing in wildlife habitat in search of tracks and sign
- Exciting facilitated discussions about Yellowstone's geology, ecology, natural history, current research, and management issues
- Dinner with your Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide and snowcoach driver guide

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



Why Choose a Lodging & Learning Package?

Our award-winning Lodging & Learning packages are developed through a partnership with Yellowstone National Park Lodges. These packages combine the best lodging locations with an exceptional immersive field education experience. Here's why this package stands out:

- ***Yellowstone Forever is Yellowstone National Park's official nonprofit education and fundraising partner.*** Our mission is to partner with Yellowstone National Park to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance, and preserve Yellowstone forever. To learn more about Yellowstone Forever, [visit our website](#).
- ***You'll help preserve Yellowstone.*** Proceeds collected by Yellowstone Forever for this package are used to preserve Yellowstone National Park and provide more opportunities for people to experience its magic. To learn more about what we do, [visit our website](#).
- ***Our naturalist guides are world class.*** Our Institute has been providing in-depth educational programs in Yellowstone for over 40 years. Our naturalist guides are among the best expert field educators in Yellowstone. They're professionals with academic credentials who are dedicating their careers to this vital work. They live in the Yellowstone ecosystem, they work alongside park researchers, and thus can provide accurate and exciting "behind the scenes" perspectives on the park's history, management, geology, flora, and fauna. They know where to go and when, and they'll handle all of the details to make your experience is as enjoyable as possible.

The same naturalist guide will lead this program from the orientation on the first day to the final farewells on the last day. They'll go out of their way to get to know you throughout the program, and make sure your needs are met. They'll build upon what you've learned each day, so you can better understand the fascinating story behind everything you see and experience.

- ***Small group size.*** This program has a max capacity of 10 participants. You'll enjoy camaraderie with fellow participants and receive a lot more attention in this small group package. It allows your naturalist guide to take an inquiry-based approach to learning, tailoring the experience to your specific interests.
- ***We provide the essential equipment.*** Your naturalist guide will provide high-quality spotting scopes and binoculars to bring distant wildlife into crisp, clear view, and even adaptors so you can take pictures through these scopes on your smart phone! We also provide snowshoes and Yaktrax for safe travel over snow and ice on daily hikes. Our guides are Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certified. They carry a first aid kit and handheld radio during all hikes, and provide bear spray if hiking in bear country. They will incorporate teaching aids such as skulls, tracks, pelts, books, i-pads with videos, and test equipment such as temperature guns for thermal features.

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

- ***You can't beat in-park lodging.*** All lodging in this package is located in the park, within short walking distance from popular features and spectacular scenery. This minimizes drive time during daily outings, and allows more time to enjoy the park's features at a relaxing pace. It also allows more time in the evenings, after daily outings, to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

What's Included?

- Four nights lodging in an Old Faithful Snow Lodge Premium Room
- All meals from lunch on the first day to breakfast the morning you check out
 - 4 hot breakfasts
 - 4 lunches (1 buffet lunch at the Mammoth Hotel, 3 deli lunches to go)
 - 4 dinners in the Old Faithful Obsidian Dining Room
 - All gratuities for foodservice
- Hot beverages and snacks on the road
- All in-park snowcoach transportation
- Instruction by a Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide throughout the program
- A custom bottle or thermos (gift item)
- Scopes, binoculars, bear spray, and other field equipment as needed
- Baggage handling on transfers between Mammoth Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge
- Snowshoes and Yaktrax
- An orientation on the evening of the first day to assure you will have an enjoyable and comfortable experience throughout the program.

Gratuities for your Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide are not included, but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

How fit do you need to be?

This program is rated *Level 3* on Yellowstone Forever's Activity Level Scale. You should be prepared for brisk hiking, snowshoeing, or skiing of up to 5 miles per day with climbs up to 500 feet, including some trail-breaking in snow. Skiing and snowshoeing are aerobic activities—even more so at 7200 to 8000 feet. Participants residing at lower elevations may want to arrive a day early to adjust to the altitude. To learn more about how specific medical conditions can be affected by Yellowstone's environment and our activities, please visit [our site page](#) on health information.

All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot participate in the day's activities, please let your naturalist guide know in advance.

To participate in this program, each participant must fill out and sign our health questionnaire and assumption of risk waiver. Registrants receive a link to this form in their confirmation letter which is sent via e-mail. These forms must be completed and returned at least 30 days prior to your program start date.

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Program Itinerary

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, road conditions, wildlife movements, holidays, and road construction.

Day 1 **Group Welcome – Depart for Old Faithful**

- Check in at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel front desk, pickup lunch coupons
- 12 p.m. Lunch at the Mammoth Hotel (with coupon)
- 1 p.m. Orientation in the Minerva Room on the second floor of the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.
- 2 p.m. Depart for Old Faithful Snow Lodge via private chartered snowcoach
- Sightseeing along the way
- Stop at Madison Warming Hut for a short break and hot drinks (included)
- Continue south to Old Faithful along the Firehole River
- 6 pm Arrive at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, check in
- Dinner on own (with coupon, advanced reservations required)
- Overnight at Old Faithful Snow Lodge

Day 2 **Geyser Basins and Wild Rivers**

- Breakfast on your own (with coupon)
- 8:30 a.m. Meet in lobby with gear for the day (pack, water, and appropriate clothing)
- Hiking and snowshoeing in the Upper Geyser Basin
- Deli lunch in the field
- Ski fitting at the Old Faithful Bear Den Ski Shop
- Professional cross-country ski lesson
- 5 p.m. Return to Snow Lodge
- Dinner on your own (with coupon, advanced reservations required)
- Overnight at Old Faithful Snow Lodge

Day 3 **Exploring Yellowstone on Skis**

- Breakfast on your own (with coupon)
- 8:30 a.m. Meet in lobby with gear for the day (pack, water, and appropriate clothing)
- Board private chartered snowcoach for ski outings
- Deli lunch in the field
- 4 p.m. Return to Old Faithful Snow Lodge
- 5 p.m. Dinner with Instructor—reservations have been made for you (with coupon)
- Overnight at Old Faithful Snow Lodge

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Day 4 **The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**

Breakfast on your own (with coupon)

- 7:30 a.m. Meet in lobby with gear for the day (pack, water, ski equipment, and appropriate clothing)
Board private chartered snowcoach and depart for the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Sightseeing and wildlife watching along the route
Deli lunch in the field
Sightseeing and skiing at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
- 6 p.m. Return to Old Faithful Snow Lodge
Dinner on your own (with coupon, advanced reservations required)
Overnight at Old Faithful Snow Lodge

Day 5 **Return to Mammoth Hot Springs**

Breakfast on your own (with coupon)

- 7:45 a.m. Leave luggage bound for Mammoth Hot Springs inside of your room
Meet in lobby with day's gear (pack, water, and appropriate clothing)
Depart for Mammoth Hot Springs
- 12 p.m. Arrive Mammoth Hot Springs

Cancellation and Refund Policy

For Lodging & Learning packages, 60-day notice is required to receive a full refund of your deposit amount. Cancellations made between 30-60 days will result in 50% forfeiture of package cost. Cancellations made within 30 days of arrival result in 100% forfeiture of package cost. We recommend the purchase of travel insurance to help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to unforeseen circumstances. For more information about travel insurance, please ask our representative when booking your reservation.

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



General Clothing and Equipment List

Much of your time will be spent outdoors and all programs are held rain, snow, or shine. You should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are very important. Winter temperatures can range from below zero in the mornings to 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the early afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose fitting layers allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change and as your own body's temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion.

Equipment:

Your naturalist guide will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

- Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, field guides, etc.
- Water bottle**, one-quart is the minimum recommended. Camelback or similar hydration systems work well in summer but can freeze in winter.
- Sunglasses**
- Sunscreen/lip protector**, sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly.
- Camera, binoculars (optional)**
- Notebook/pencil (optional)**
- Pocket hand and foot warmers**, recommended November through May.
- Flashlight/Headlamp**, a small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.
- Alarm**, so you're on time for the day's activities.

Clothing:

- Insulating underwear**, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.
- Mid-weight insulating layer**, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- Heavyweight insulating layer**, can be wool, down, heavy-weight fleece, or other synthetic fabric. In the winter, a heavy winter coat with a water resistant shell will suffice for less active programs.
- Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable. Both jackets and pants are recommended.
- Short sleeved shirt**, cotton is okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.
- Pants**, in the summer, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants, tights, or similar. In the winter, wool or fleece pants or tights. Jeans are not recommended.
- Hats**, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat that covers your ears for cold weather.
- Gloves**, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens. A water and windproof outer layer is recommended.
- Socks**, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock.

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



- ❑ **Insulated boots, winter**, must have water repellent layers outside, thick insulation inside, and be large enough to fit over thick socks. Tight boots are the surest way to get painfully cold feet. Soles with proper traction or traction devices (i.e. Yaktrax) are essential for icy conditions. General hiking boots will not provide adequate insulation or traction in most cases.
- ❑ **Off-duty shoes**, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

Suggested Reading

No prior reading is required, but you might want something to occupy your flight or car ride. Whether your passion is history, geology, wildlife, or ecology, there's something for everyone. Most publications are available from Yellowstone Forever's online Park Store at Shop.Yellowstone.org or by calling 406.848.2400. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount and proceeds directly benefit Yellowstone.

- **A Field Guide to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*. Johnson, Kurt F. 2013. Farcountry Press. 248 pp.
- **Decade of the Wolf*. Smith, D. and Ferguson, G. 2005. Lyons Press, NY 212 pp.
- *Life in the Cold: An Introduction to Winter Ecology, 4th Edition*. Marchand, Peter J. 2014. University Press of New England. 320 pp.
- **[Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds](#)*. Heinrich, Bernd. 2007. Harper Perennial. 432 pp.
- *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness*. Schullery, P. 1999. Houghton Mifflin Co., NY, NY. 338 pp.
- **[Windows into the Earth: The Geologic Story of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks](#)*. Smith, R.B. and Siegel, L.J. 2000. Oxford University Press. 242 pp.
- **[Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival](#)*. Heinrich, Bernd. 2009. Harper Perennial. 400 pp
- **Yellowstone Has Teeth*. Ambler, Marjane. 2013. Riverbend Publishing. 223 pp.

* Book available at <https://shop.yellowstone.org>, unless out of stock.

Park Stores

Our Park Stores features more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help you plan your visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items to remind you of your visit to Yellowstone. Yellowstone

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise online or at any of our 11 locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone. Visit: Shop.Yellowstone.org

Supporter Program

Yellowstone Forever Supporters directly fund priority park programs and projects. Supporters also provide scholarships for teachers and help expand programming for underserved youth. Benefits include a subscription to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly*, early registration and discounts for Yellowstone Forever Institute programs, and discounts on retail purchases throughout Yellowstone (exclusions apply). If you are not yet a supporter of Yellowstone Forever, an introductory subscription (one year) to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly* is included with your tuition. For more information, visit: Yellowstone.org/donate

Yellowstone Forever Supporters receive a \$15 discount for themselves and all other participants they book into Lodging & Learning packages. Simply present your Yellowstone Forever supporter card when you check in to your first night's lodging to have your discount applied!

Code of Ethics

The Yellowstone Forever Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in a Yellowstone Forever Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Yellowstone Forever Institute abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

Observing wildlife: We will do our best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high-powered spotting scopes to help keep our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. The Yellowstone Forever Institute will adhere to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. We will not entice wildlife with food, animal calls or any actions that change their behavior.

Leave what you find: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever Institute instructors have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever Institute groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Roads and vehicles: Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, the Yellowstone Forever Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.

Properly dispose of waste: We will pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Your instructor will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks. We will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail. Walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their program and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

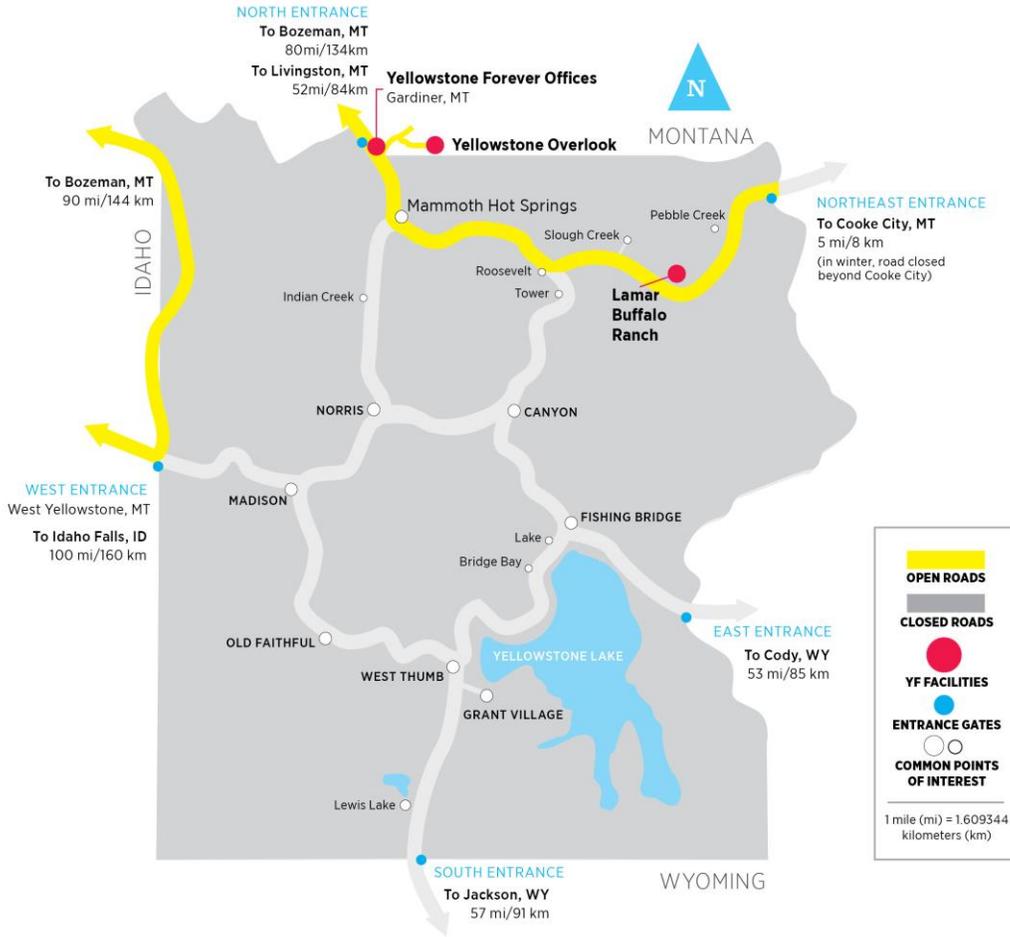
Thank you for helping us set a good example in Yellowstone!

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone Winter Map **YELLOWSTONE FOREVER**



The only road open to wheeled vehicles in the winter (early November to mid-April) is the road from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Because Cooke Pass is closed to wheeled vehicles, it is not possible to enter or exit Yellowstone National Park through the Northeast Entrance. You must enter the park through Gardiner, Montana. Current road conditions are available through the [NPS Road Report at 307.344.2117](http://www.nps.gov/roadreport).



POINT TO POINT DISTANCE	Miles/Kilometers
North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs	5 mi/8 km
Roosevelt to Northeast Entrance	29 mi/47 km
Roosevelt to Lamar Buffalo Ranch	11 mi/17km
Roosevelt to Mammoth Hot Springs	18 mi/29 km

ELEVATIONS	feet / meters
North Entrance	5314 / 1620
West Entrance	6667 / 2032
South Entrance	6886 / 2099
East Entrance	6951 / 2119
Mammoth Hot Springs	6239 / 1902
Old Faithful	7365 / 2254
Grant Village	7733 / 2357
Lake	7784 / 2373
Canyon	7734 / 2357
Roosevelt	6270 / 1911

EXPERIENCE IT TODAY | PRESERVE IT FOR ALWAYS